

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-16, of which claims 1, 8, 12, 13, and 14 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Claims 8-13 stand allowed. As none of these claims have been further amended, they remain in condition for allowance.

The invention as set forth in independent claim 1 is directed to a recording-medium identification device for identifying a recording medium type. The device comprises light-emitting means for reflecting light off a surface of the recording medium, the light-emitting means applying light on the surface in a predetermined direction other than a direction normal to the surface, detection means for detecting an amount of light reflected in a direction backward to an incident direction of the light emitted by the light-emitting means and identification means for identifying the type of the recording medium based on the amount of light detected by the detection means.

Claim 14 is directed to a method of identifying a recording medium and incorporates what are believed to be the salient features of claim 1. As the Examiner will appreciate, claim 14 has also been amended in the same manner as claim 1.

Each of claims 1 and 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Courtney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,139,339). In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, the invention is respectfully traversed.

As the Examiner will appreciate, independent claims 1 and 14 have been

amended to more clearly recite the manner in which Applicant's invention detects the type of recording medium. More specifically, in accordance with each of claims 1 and 14, the recording medium type is detected by detecting an amount of light reflected in a direction backward to an incident direction of the light emitted by the light-emitting means. This feature of Applicant's invention is disclosed at least in paragraphs 54-56 of the specification.

Courtney et al. is directed to a media discriminating and presence sensor that is said to be able to detect and discriminate between paper and transparency using a light emitting diode and two detectors configured so as to measure both diffuse and specular reflectivity of the media. However, Applicant respectfully submits that Courtney et al. does not teach or suggest detecting an amount of light reflected in a direction backward to an incident direction of the light emitted by the light emitting means and then identifying the type of recording medium based on the amount of light so detected. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 14 are neither taught nor suggested by the applied reference.

The remaining claims in the above application not heretofore discussed are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of claims 1 and 14 and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to those claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding matters in the above application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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